

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY India/China

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Chinese Community in Northeastern Assam

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EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. A community of Chinese Communists, mostly from Calcutta, is located in Makum (N 27-30, E 95-27), a small town on the Ledo Road between Tinsukia (N 27-30, E 95-22) and Dighoi (N 27-23, E 95-38), approximately 30 miles east of Dibrugarh (N 27-29, E 94-54) in the Lakhimpur district (N 27-21, E 95-50) of Assam.
2. The leader of the community is A. P. Lee, who established himself in the area during World War II as a contractor for food and canteen services to American forces stationed in the upper Assam valley. The community, which is growing, numbered about 300 people in late February 1953.
3. Buildings in the community consist of permanent dwellings, a retail store, and a school, which is marked by a large red star. Some of the teachers in the Chinese school have recently arrived from China.
4. Members of the Chinese community are making organized efforts to learn Assamese. A. P. Lee speaks fluent Assamese and has some familiarity with several of the Naga dialects.

1. Comment. This community's efforts to learn local languages are unusual. As a rule the Chinese communities in India are largely self-contained and, with few exceptions, make no planned effort to learn local languages and customs.

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